

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 IGA-02 DPW-01 NIC-01 EB-11 RSR-01 /128 W
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R 101135 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1488

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8246

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AID TO PRG- CONTROLLED AREAS

STATE 084788

1. MAY 10 BENNETT DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LAM MAKING POINTS IN REFTEL. LAM SEEMED WELL IMPRESSED BY ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF USING RED CROSS AS CHANNEL FOR HUMANITARIAN AID TO POPULATION IN PRG- CONTROLLED AREAS. IN FACT HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN WORKING WITH THE GVN RED CROSS (WHOSE FORMER CHAIRMAN IS AN INTIMATE FRIEND) TO SEND AID TO GROUP OF SOME 30 CATHOLIC NUNS AND FATHERS STRANDED IN PRG TERRITORY. LAM ADDED THAT THE DRV RED CROSS, THROUGH WHICH THE GVN RED CROSS HAD TRIED TO ARRANGE SENDING THIS AID, HAD NOT RESPONDED TO ANY OF ITS APPROACHES.

2. LAM NOTED THAT THE PRG WAS EVEN NOW SEEKING TO PARLAY INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN HUMANITARIAN AID TO INDOCHINA INTO POLITICAL

ADVANTAGE AND SAID THAT THERE WAS A PRG REPRESENTATIVE, ONE PHAN VAN BA, NOW IN GENEVA ATTEMPTING TO WIN MEMBERSHIP FOR THE PRG IN UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AS STEP TOWARD GETTING PERMISSION
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TO SEND AN OBSERVER MISSION TO NEW YORK.

3. THE MAIN PROBLEMS THAT LAM SEES IN OUR SUGGESTED APPROACH TO THE MATTER ARE: (1) THE PRG WILL INEVITABLY TRY TO MAKE POLITICAL MILEAGE OF HUMANITARIAN AID NO MATTER HOW CHanneLED TO THE PRG AREA; (2) THE PRG RED CROSS THROUGH WHICH AID COULD BE CHanneLED, IS NOT A RECOGNIZED RED CROSS SOCIETY SINCE ONLY ONE SOCIETY CAN BE RECOGNIZED IN ONE COUNTRY; (3) THE DRV RED CROSS, THROUGH WHICH

AID COULD ALSO BE CHanneLED TO THE PRG AREA, HAS NOT RESPONDED TO ANY GVN APPORACHES SO FAR; AND (4) SENDING AID FROM THE GVN RED CROSS IN SAIGON TO THE PRG RED CROSS WOULD BE HARD TO ARRANGE. WITH RESPECT TO THE LAST POINT, LAM THOUGHT THE MAIN PROBLEMS WOULD BE THE MECHANICAL ONE OF TRANSPORTING AID TO THE PRG AREA AND THE DIFFICULTY OF SATISFYING THE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS WE CAN ANTICIPATE THE PRG WOULD INSIST ON.

4. LAM TOLD BENNETT HE WOULD GIVE THE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTION FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND LET US KNOW.

BUNKER

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NMAFVVZCZ

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